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Hedger 10/28/97*

Duxbury

Go-ahead given for power-line connection

Electric company's petitions approved

By John Chaffee
The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — The closing of an electric power-supply gap moved two steps closer to happening last night.

The selectmen approved two petitions in which Commonwealth Electric requested permission to erect poles and install underground cables along Tremont Street (Route 3A) across from Mayflower Cemetery and town hall.

At the Oct. 14 special town meeting, residents authorized spending \$103,392 to help close the 450-yard gap between two Commonwealth Electric feeder lines that provide power to different parts of town.

Because the line from Marshfield is not connected to the line from Kingston, Commonwealth Electric has difficulty restoring service quickly after a storm or accident knocks out power.

The power gap, which extends north from opposite Mayflower Cemetery's main entrance to just beyond the Route 3A intersection with Depot Street, across from town hall, will be filled by a combination of overhead wires and an underground cable at the intersection.

"There should be no reason for delay," said John Joline, chairman of the lands committee of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, which owns the woodland along which the poles will be erected.

Three years ago, when Commonwealth Electric tried to link the two feeder lines by stringing overhead wires along the entire length of the gap, the Rural and Historical Society objected and the poles that already had been erected were taken down.

Joline said his primary concern was not so much the poles along the road, but stringing wires across the intersection, which includes a triangular plot in the middle known as Boomer Square, a memorial to a

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World War I veteran.

Although Commonwealth Electric offered to close the link with overhead lines at no expense to local taxpayers and selectmen supported that option, 2-1, residents at town

meeting decided to pay to bury the linkage line under the intersection.

James Noonan, a Commonwealth Electric planner, told the selectmen it may take a month to six weeks to get state highway permits before work can begin.

Noonan also said the cost of the underground link may be less than the amount authorized by town meeting.

"If it comes in at any less, we'll be glad to pay less," said Selectmen Chairwoman Margaret Kearney, who opposed using taxpayer money to bury the line.